

Application No. 10/696,532  
Supplemental Amendment

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Claims 1, 12 and 18 have been amended to clarify that the laser light is irradiated through the active optical element on which the variable pattern is formed so that a part of the sample excluding the necessary area is irradiated with the laser light, so as to better accord with the disclosure in the specification and the recitations in dependent claims 7, 18 and 26.

In addition, claims 7, 18 and 26 have been amended to reflect the amendments to their respective parent claims, and claim 18 has been amended to correct an error in dependency.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1, 7, 12, 18, 23 and 26 in this Supplemental Amendment be approved and entered.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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